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26 OCT 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Basic and Geographic  
Intelligence

SUBJECT : Mapping of Communist Presence in  
Indochina

1. As you are aware, resumed Communist military activity in South Vietnam is considered probable, although the timing and extent are not firmly predictable. This situation necessitates continuous review both at Headquarters and in the field, and this requirement in turn makes it desirable to have, for both reference and briefing purposes, more specialized graphic materials than are generally available. I would like to propose that, subject to the availability of personnel, a set of maps be drawn up illustrating the Communist presence in Indochina, covering such aspects as territorial control, population control, areas of operation of major units, logistics routes, administrative divisions, and strategic patterns of former offensives. In most cases it would be desirable to complement the picture of Communist presence with that of friendly forces. I would suggest that if prepared the maps cover all of Indochina rather than South Vietnam alone because of the important roles from the South Vietnamese point of view played by North Vietnamese and other Communist forces in Cambodia, Laos, and of course North Vietnam itself.

2. This project has been discussed preliminarily with [REDACTED] of your Cartographic Division, who can advise you further as to what we have in mind if you desire.

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Chief, East Asia Division

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